

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

UNCLAS STATE 003957

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:SENV, US, UR

SUBJECT: US-USSR ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT: PROJECT 02.08-12,
EFFECTS OF POLLUTION OF THE ATMOSPHERE ON CLIMATE

1. REQUEST EMBASSY PASS FOLLOWING LETTER FROM DR. EDWARD
S. EPSTEIN, US COCHAIRMAN, WORKING GROUP VIII, TO DR. Y.S.
SEDUNOV, USSR COCHAIRMAN, WITH COPY TO DR. KAZAKOV, BOTH
OF HYDROMET. REQUEST AMCONSUL PASS COPY TO DR. BORISENKOV
AT MAIN GEOPHYSICAL OBSERVATORY.

2. QUOTE
PROJECT 02.08-12 JANUARY 5, 1978
DR. Y.S. SEDUNOV
FIRST DEPUTY DIRECTOR
MAIN ADMINISTRATION HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL SERVICE
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12 PAVLIK MOROZOVA STREET
MOSCOW 123376 USSR

DEAR DR. SEDUNOV:

THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA)
PLANS TO EXPAND ITS MONITORING OF ATMOSPHERIC CARBON

DIOXIDE (CO2) AT VERY CLEAN LOCATIONS. THE EXISTING US

NETWORK COMPRISES FOUR STATIONS AS PART OF THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION NETWORK PLUS A FEW ADDITIONAL LAND AND SHIP LOCATIONS. IN ADDITION, THE GOVERNMENTS OF AND INSTITUTIONS WITHIN CANADA, AUSTRALIA, AND SWEDEN ALSO OPERATE CARBON DIOXIDE BASELINE MONITORING PROGRAMS. THE PURPOSES OF THE EXPANSION ARE AT LEAST TWO-FOLD; FIRST, TO OBTAIN MORE TRULY GLOBAL YEAR-TO-YEAR CHANGES IN CARBON DIOXIDE CONCENTRATIONS, AND SECOND TO SEARCH FOR TEMPORAL AND SPATIAL SOURCES AND SINKS FROM GRADIENTS OF CONCENTRATION.

ACCORDINGLY, WE ARE SOLICITING THE ASSISTANCE OF THE USSR THROUGH WORKING GROUP VIII OF THE US/USSR BILATERAL AGREEMENT TO EXPAND CARBON DIOXIDE SAMPLING. THIS LETTER INQUIRES WHETHER THE USSR WOULD BE WILLING TO COLLECT WHOLE AIR SAMPLES AT YOUR OCEAN STATION "C" LOCATED AT 52.75 DEGREES NORTH, 35.5 DEGREES WEST.

THE NOAA AGREES TO PROVIDE ROUTINELY BY MAIL EVACUATED ONE-HALF LITER (GLASS) FLASKS IN STURDY SHIPPING CONTAINERS. THE PROPOSED PROGRAM WOULD CONSIST OF THE USSR FILLING THE FLASKS WITH CLEAN, UNCONTAMINATED AIR, TWO PAIRS OF FLASKS ON SEPARATE DAYS EACH WEEK (A TOTAL OF FOUR FLASKS EACH WEEK). IN COLLECTING THE AIR IN FLASKS, UNCLASSIFIED

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CERTAIN SIMPLE PRECAUTIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN SO AS NOT TO CONTAMINATE THE SAMPLE WITH THE BREATH OF THE PERSON COLLECTING THE SAMPLE. FULL INSTRUCTIONS FOR COLLECTION WOULD BE SUPPLIED. THE FLASKS CONTAINING AIR SHOULD BE SENT BY MAIL TO A NOAA LABORATORY, TO BE SPECIFIED, IN BOULDER, COLORADO, AND NOAA AGREES TO PERFORM LABORATORY ANALYSIS FOR CARBON DIOXIDE CONCENTRATION OF THE COLLECTED AIR IN THE FLASK.

THE NOAA HOPES THAT THE EFFORTS TO OBTAIN CLEAN AIR SAMPLES AT OCEAN STATION "C" WILL BE SUPPORTED BY THE USSR. IF YOU ARE PREPARED TO COOPERATE WITH THIS PROGRAM, WE WILL CONDUCT THE LABORATORY ANALYSIS OF CARBON DIOXIDE CONCENTRATION AND PROVIDE YOU PROMPTLY AFTER ANALYSIS INFORMATION ON THE CARBON DIOXIDE CONCENTRATIONS OF THE AIR FLASK SAMPLES.

BARRING UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENTS, IT IS CONTEMPLATED THAT THIS PROGRAM WILL CONTINUE FOR FIVE YEARS. IF IT IS SUCCESSFUL AND THERE IS MUTUAL AGREEMENT ON THE NEED AND CAPABILITY TO CONTINUE IT BEYOND FIVE YEARS, IT MAY BE OPERATED LONGER.

I BELIEVE THIS PROJECT WILL CONTRIBUTE GREATLY TO UNDER-
STANDING THE ROLE OF CARBON DIOXIDE IN CLIMATE CHANGE. I
AWAIT YOUR EARLY REPLY.

WITH BEST REGARDS
EDWARD S. EPSTEIN
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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